

- the project and post-project plans including future use of resources provided or generated by the project.

Main achievements in 2014

Pilot study of sustainable production of bamboo shoots in Puham SHG

An initial assessment of the role and importance of bamboo shoots showed that:

- Bamboo shoots can be considered as an extension of people's everyday field activities as it is considered as a vegetable similar to other cultivated ones.
- As bamboo shoots are perceived as abundant, no conservation issue arises in the view of villagers and people have unrestricted access to the resource.
- Collecting methods are very simple and use the same tools as for existing field work.
- Collection takes during the rainy season. Young shoots are collected in the early season (May to July) to be eaten fresh. During the late season (August to October) older bamboo shoots are collected to be processed for family consumption.
- All women in families collecting bamboo shoots know how to prepare sour bamboo shoots. Three main recipes are used.
- A meat paste with bamboo shoots is a product peculiar to the area.
- Most people do not sell bamboo shoots but only collect them for family consumption. A few families specialize in selling fresh bamboo shoots. Nobody so far has processed bamboo shoots for sale.



Puham SHG member collecting bamboo shoots

Training to compile a bamboo inventory was conducted in partnership with NTFP-EP in a participative way with the community. The mapping session was organized with villagers who collected bamboo shoots to produce a map of their collection area. The map was digitalized and an estimation of the total area of collection was made by using GIS land use data. This initial estimation showed that there is a potential of 4,600 hectares of bamboo forest.

A rapid market research was carried out in different potential markets. They covered the closest major market – the provincial capital - then regional markets in neighbouring provinces, finally to a national market based around Phnom Penh. The research meant better understanding of potential markets and value chains. In addition, a survey was organized to identify potential bamboo shoots products that would interest tourists coming to Mondulkiri province.

Eventually all results gathered were presented to villagers and local stakeholders to check and validate information. Collection practices, collection areas, processing techniques and

market chains were aired through focus group discussions. Following the workshop, a group of twelve expressed a strong interest in continuing bamboo shoots production activities. So a full day of training in bamboo shoot processing was organized in partnership with the Royal University of Agriculture. This has provided the main basis to produce quality bamboo shoot processed products. Dry bamboo shoots and pickled shoots can now be produced and marketed.



MIPAD Director Chan

results at the workshop

Kosal presenting

Sustainable Livelihoods and Natural Resources Management

MIPAD started this new project in the mid-2014 thanks to the partnership with the Winrock Foundation. After just six months of work, mostly focused on mobilizing communities and strengthening SHGs, the main achievements are as follows:

- 80 villagers were interviewed for the family assessment in the 8 targeted villages (12 in Chiclob, 10 in Sraethom, 10 in Srae Huy, 10 in Sraechrey, 10 in Chimeat, 10 in Koh Mayel Leu, 10 in Koh Mayel Kraom and 8 in Puham). All the data collected was entered into a computerized database to follow up on key progress bench-marks to and evaluate project impacts.
- In all 8 targeted villages communities have been mobilized around the project objectives. 8 Self Help Groups are formed with their own structure, regulation, and potential enterprises chosen.
- In Puham 20 members, including 15 women, are developing an eco-tourism site at the Leng Khin, Leng Orn Waterfall. Support has enabled them to devise and implement their own activity plan. At the end of the year the waterfall site was opened to tourists and the site received over 400 visitors. In addition, the bamboo shoots group received the training in bamboo shoot processing and 20 samples of sour bamboo shoots are being sold for testing at the Hefalump Café in Sen Monorom.
- SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) exercises were carried out in



all target villages to select potential enterprises. They included bamboo shoots, medicinal plants, orchids, vegetable production, chicken and pig-raising, fuel efficient stoves, mushrooms, and improved water supply.

- A technical training in appropriate methods of potential mushroom production was organized to test for feasibility and provide skills to selected entrepreneurs from three target villages, Srae Chrey, Srae Huy and Chiclop.



Training in bamboo shoots-processing

- Materials for vegetable production (seeds and water supply) were provided to selected entrepreneurs in order to allow them to test new vegetable production. Srae Huy (6 families), Chiclop (5 families), Srae Chrey (10 families), Chimeat (5 families) and Komayel Leu (19 families).
- 84 villagers attended four training sessions to raise awareness about new livelihood strategies aimed at preserving biodiversity. The trainings were held in Koh Niek District - Srae Thom, Srae Huy, Srae Chrey and Koh Mayel villages.



Finally Nomad RSI and MIPAD wish to acknowledge the positive role Winrock Foundation has played in staff capacity-building through training and mentoring in project management and reporting skills.

Looking forward

MIPAD is committed to developing the initial work started with community enterprises and to strengthen further the skills of the SHG members for them to obtain new sustainable livelihoods. MIPAD is therefore commissioning more technical consultants in the enterprises or entrepreneurial skills and in sound business and community financial management.

Thanks to a partnership with the UK organisation, Accounting for International Development (AFiD), a second volunteer is coming in early 2015 to develop with the MIPAD team a complete curriculum for enterprise development. This will hopefully address the misunderstanding of villagers about the key factors for successful social and family enterprises. Villagers can no longer rely on subsistence-oriented economic systems, but

with the right kind of support over time, they will be able to switch to more market oriented forms of making a living.

Another key factor of success for the micro-enterprises is to better understand how markets work and assessing the potentials of products to be produced and sold profitably. MIPAD will



source technical experts to come to Monduliri to provide in situ better advice to the SHGs in terms of the enterprises and what can work for them. They will understand existing value chains in the selected products and help the SHGs to figure out if there is a real long-term interest in developing such activities rather than less viable or ethical ways of making money.

Children often attend sessions with parents. We encourage them to take part, provided it does not harm schooling and of course the extra income from new enterprises makes schooling possible.

For enterprises and participating communities, using natural resources such as bamboo shoots, genuine sustainable collection practices need to be designed with the resource management plan. Collection areas, as mapped for Puham above, need to be clearly defined to organize exactly what and when to collect to lower the impact on the resource in the forest. Different zones must be proposed and in each zone a small committee of group members takes the responsibility to ensure that the plan is respected and good practices followed. This plan has to be agreed by all group members and should involve the Forestry Administration and Department of Environment responsible for the protection of the forest.



4. Promoting Indigenous People's Interests

Nomad RSI with MIPAD continued to encourage constructive engagement with authorities, in order to promote interests and maintain dialogue. Ongoing land disputes throughout the province continue to cause conflicts that inevitably harm indigenous people most. MIPAD will certainly fill a gap in advocacy by enabling its members to be represented; to self-advocate, and to ensure that they are fully included in development decisions.

Main achievements in 2014

- **Indigenous People's Market in Sen Monorom**

Sen Monorom Market has experienced considerable growth in trade in recent years, with stalls seldom available, having been taken by regular traders invariably Khmer. This meant that casual Bunong sellers from the countryside did not have access to spots. Therefore Nomad RSI facilitated the creation of a dedicated space, while training traders in self-help organisation skills to act as a trader's association and to help run the market. The market-place is now available. We hope that the current small facility operated by the District Authority will serve as an example for a more ambitious scheme to be included in plans of the Ministry of Rural Development and German-assisted rural market-places. MIPAD will encourage the traders' association to enroll as a constituent member.



Main trading over for the day but two traders hope to sell their wares

- **Intellectual Property Rights**

MIPAD members include handicraft producers with their own authentic products. Nomad RSI has facilitated the design of labels based on Bunong images and colours. In addition it facilitated co-operation with the Ministry of Commerce to ensure that imported goods are not sold in Mondulkiri or as ones, as unfortunately occurs now. MIPAD will follow this up at the ministry's provincial department.



- **Constructive Engagement on Land Rights**

Usually land rights issues arise in the midst of conflicts after economic land concessions have been granted to developers who then seek to displace indigenous communities or to restrict their access to what were their ancestral lands. In order to educate and inform about land rights, especially indigenous communal titles, Nomad RSI with Forum Syd arranged for two groups, Puchar and Puham, to attend training in Phnom Penh and then return to pass on the knowledge around their communities. It will be noted that most new livelihoods being developed with and through MIPAD depend on sufficient continuing access to forests and natural resources.

5. Research

A study of Malaria Data in a Multidisciplinary Research Project

Simon Tomasi and Vanny Rath conducted a geographical study of diagnosed malaria morbidity data in Mondulkiri province. The research was integrated into the SOREMA

project led by the IRD made possible with funding from the French National Research Agency.

Three communes of the province were targeted for the study: Bou Sra, Sen Monorom and Srae Preah. Malaria cases were identified from the registers of the District Hospital in Sen Monorom, as well as district Health Centres and from Village Health (Malaria) Workers. The data led us to understand more about malaria morbidity and to reflect upon several questions:

- Which social and environmental factors influence the spread of malaria in the studied area?
- How does the study of diagnosed morbidity inform us on how patients or their families seek care?
- What are still the main determinants of risk that allows malaria transmission? What are the habits in households that prevent or allow contamination?



Amusement during interviews for the research

Our study enabled us to highlight some decisive diagnosed morbidity factors. First, “risky practices” included everyday tasks in forests – wood-cutting, hunting, fishing, resin collection, slash-and-burn agriculture. They determine the intensity of contamination within villages and households. They consist of Bunong traditional activities, and of late illegal activities such as logging which also attracts many migrants even less likely than local people to be able to access health care services.

The study poses the question about how care can be provided to these people, often staying far from the health centers. Moreover, the study shows the fundamental importance of the local Health (Malaria) Worker, the nearest trained worker for malaria diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

The location of VMW's needs more study. Our map of diagnosed prevalence might be incomplete. The qualitative research showed the importance of the private health sector, for now mainly in Bou Sra, but also in Srae Preah and Purang. Better more available therapeutic treatment and preventative measures against the disease require greater collaboration with existing and new health-care providers.



Earlier in 2014, Nomad RSI was pleased to assist Researcher Vanny Rath with technical and editing support for a final version of her dissertation for her degree from the Royal University of Agriculture "**Health Perceptions on Malaria of Bunong Indigenous People In Keo Seima District, Mondulkiri Province**". She is a great addition to the team.

Ms Vanny Rath, Researcher and MIPAD Team Member Social Enterprises.

6. Lessons Learned:

Reaching self-reliance, a continuous challenge

The general level of formal knowledge of indigenous (and migrant) dwellers remains low. The majority of our SHG members have never been to school or completed their primary schooling to graduate-level. Many are therefore illiterate in Khmer. In addition, most of the SHG members are women with female illiteracy much higher than for males, so that they are much less able master Khmer language. Without Khmer skills, people tend to be excluded from public services and opportunities in life generally. The main outcome from this situation is that members have low confidence in themselves when they have to deal with official documents. These are necessary as a least requirement to run the SHG properly. Most have difficulty in leading formal meetings where predominantly the new concepts are conveyed in Khmer, not their mother tongue. This factor alone helps to explain why development in indigenous communities requires even more effort than in disadvantaged Khmer ones.

Nomad RSI has always believed in the principle of indigenous people determining their own futures. This can only be done by building and reinforcing capacities in planning, finance and leadership skills within communities. We need to stress that many have never been used to dealing with these concepts, with intrusion from the outside world impacting only within the last two generations. It is a long term commitment to build enough confidence inside the groups to manage their projects by themselves. Indeed this can be seen by the more advanced groups, who now offer peer-to-peer help via MIPAD. Now that this capacity building has been started, it is essential that it continues for the next 5 years and beyond.

Mushroom production is one of the new enterprises that some groups are pioneering.



Improving the management of loans by the groups themselves

For similar reasons, as explained above, SHGs members also encounter difficulties in administering loans as they require paperwork to be processed, approved and monitored. Even if the treasurer of each group is always carefully chosen for his or her ability and trustworthiness the minimal educational level causes incomplete recording all the savings and loans in the books provided with their initial training.

Thus, thanks to the partnership with AfID a volunteer will come and spend six months in 2015 to work with the MIPAD supervising committee (CLECC) and the field-work team in how they can support SHGs to manage their loan schemes effectively. Nomad RSI must also pay tribute to AfID and the first volunteer that they arranged. Brendan Ryan did an excellent job in mid-year enabling Nomad RSI, and MIPAD, to make the full transition to a modern system of financial management, now appreciated by donors and auditors.

Developing models of self training

All Nomad RSI's training modules, over the years; provide new knowledge and expertise in health and other topics such as agriculture and traditional weaving. It is simply not possible to reach all villagers in a once-off training, and even for those who do attend, they cannot all assimilate everything in one go. "Repeat, refresh and reinforce" is a standard requirement. Better understanding and practical application of new concepts, integrated well with traditional knowledge must be phased and repeated, to be gradually assimilated by people in their own way and pace.

At one time Nomad RSI was the only NGO active in indigenous communities. Today, there are new ones. They also often provide training in different topics that may complement our training. Sometimes, however, they do not co-ordinate well and can prove to be harmful or undermine past work. Some pay generous allowances, just to take part "per diems". That not only means that some people do not attend for the right reasons but for others our mainly voluntary participation principle is undermined. Nomad RSI has learned that externally-led training does not work as well as models operated by communities to make arrangements by themselves. This has the additional advantage, as per another principle, of training in indigenous languages, and involving peer educators familiar with local contexts." Ideally group leadership skills should be imparted in this way as well as technical ones for health; livelihoods and other chosen activities.

Mondulkiri's natural resources could be both preserved and generate income for indigenous people through eco-tourism.



The major prerequisite for “self-training” is initial training provided by Nomad RSI or others to be very well-understood by a small cadre of the best members drawn from within the federation – a core group of “master trainers”. Towards this, Nomad RSI organized a workshop with group leaders and members most willing to lead training. It helped them to exchange ideas and build the confidence to try doing the training. This workshop served a secondary important purpose. It determined who is doing what training in which village, so developing a “peer-to-peer” bank for MIPAD. Indeed, some groups’ members from some villages had better knowledge and felt more confident in certain topics than others. Thus, SHG members from one group attended training with another group in another village. This experimental methodology, extending further the “self-help” concept needs to be nurtured more, to be refined if its early promising results are to be realized. MIPAD as the body federating all of these groups is in the best position to manage it and take over the lead from Nomad RSI.

III – PERSPECTIVES FOR 2015

As we proceed in to 2015, it is hard not to be more pessimistic than at any time since 1997 when Nomad RSI first engaged in Mondulkiri. Its indigenous people, our friends and colleagues, today face the gravest threat to their future existence and traditions since the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s. Mondulkiri, for so long the largest and least developed province, is now opening up on a wholesale scale. Vast tracts of land, hitherto unspoiled natural resources, are being handed over for agro-industrial, mining, and other economic concessions.

Meanwhile, the rights of indigenous people, enshrined in international and domestic law, are ignored. They have little or no influence in decision-making. They are entitled to communal lands that should preserve their ability to sustain themselves, as they have done from time immemorial, but authorities are much slower to recognize those than they are to grant economic land concessions to outsiders. Although indigenous people take comfort from the many authoritative international and national experts speaking up on their behalf, so far on the ground, they see little reversal from the erosion of their interests.

Older people can no longer farm or access non-timber forestry products in the ways they have known all their lives. Younger people have no option but to look beyond their communities to make their way in the world. This is why the drive is so important to retain and maximize traditional knowledge with new skills. Medicinal plants; basketry, weaving, etc., remain relevant, to go on alongside new sustainable livelihoods in and around homes.



Nomad RSI's core mission of "therapeutic diversity" lives on with 3 community groups maintaining medicinal plants activities. Our graduate, Chran Dim, from the Traditional Medicinal Health School in Phnom Penh, practices his craft at his shop

So far the message has not got through to the government and powerful people that the treatment of indigenous people is not only an injustice, but also not in the best long-term interests of the country – it goes against efforts to mitigate climate change and it destroys a unique and valuable culture. In years to come, this rare culture could be a major earner for Cambodia in the world tourism market. Our eco-tourism projects are already showing benefits and great potential.

MIPAD has the opportunity to add an authentic Mondulakiri-based voice to advocate on behalf of its members and communities. MIPAD must be wary of groups with causes that arouse hostility or who are plainly opposed to any kind of development. MIPAD must maintain its political neutrality and to engage constructively wherever possible. For this, it needs to develop an independent identity, with a fresh perspective on current affairs that portrays a clear vision of what is best for its members in particular and indigenous peoples in general. The challenge from 2015 onwards is for the MIPAD Board, its Chair-Person, Director, and spokespersons, to be conversant and confident in projecting that voice.



It has taken over 5 years for MIPAD to be established and nurtured to the point where it is beginning to organize itself as federated association of community self-help group members, and to manage projects with them. Just as they are proving their abilities, in late 2015, we lack certainty of attracting the funding to consolidate their progress, or to be sure that they can withstand inevitable setbacks while they mature. There is just one substantial project and grant guaranteed to mid-2015. Although this has a major emphasis on cultivating social and private enterprises – compatible with MIPAD's aim to restore family and community self-reliance – it cannot provide the base for an effective organization.

We are hopeful that our flagship maternal child health and livelihoods project will be extended and funded for another 3 years. This has much of the dedicated capacity-building component MIPAD needs. We hope to retain our existing partner and attract one more for greater impact and out-reach. The latest Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (that combines Mondulakiri with Rattanakiri) shows conclusively that the two provinces remain at the bottom of most indices. So this project is still much needed. More optimistically, we are confident that early in 2015, we will have our first guaranteed, if modest, 3 years funding

for MRDC.

Nomad RSI has been a very patient supportive partner and mentor over the years. Its primary mission has been scientific research in relation to the environment and properties of plants such as those used medicinally. It diverted in to service provision and development in Mondulkiri because originally no-one else was working with indigenous people to challenge scourges like malaria.

Today there are other NGOs, but none founded with the anthropologist's appreciation of ethnic minority culture. MIPAD is fortunate to inherit that characteristic. We hope that for many years ahead MIPAD will continue to host researchers from within and outside the Nomad RSI network.



Traditional baskets are still popular to carry goods to market by Bunong traders to market. They are also proving popular as gifts bought by tourists.

Nomad RSI's development role, with its responsibility to look after MIPAD, is reaching its logical conclusion. The Nomad RSI Board has set 2017 for completion of a full handover. In the meantime despite many other personal commitments, key Board Members have still kindly agreed to give whatever personal support is necessary. Our staff, members, and partners very much appreciate their help.



MIPAD must therefore focus clearly on firm targets, latest targets, by which its senior Board members and staff, do take on their full leadership roles. There is no time to waste. Every opportunity to win new funding must be taken. Whenever MIPASD can generate revenue internally, using its newly-acquired entrepreneurial acumen, it must do so. Every precaution must be taken to save costs and to preserve the capital resources kindly entrusted to it by Nomad RSI. If MIPAD does all of this and more, then hopefully "Perspectives for 2016", will be more optimistic.

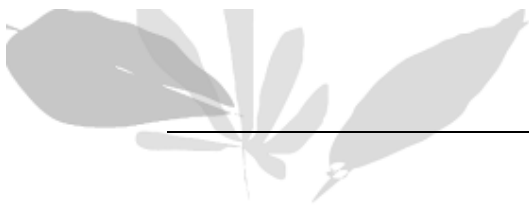
IV - FINANCIAL REPORT

| | Funds b/f from 2013 | Funds received in 2014 | Expenditure in 2014 | Internal Transfers | Balance c/f to 2015 |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| NOMAD RSI PROJECTS | | | | | |
| <u>Maternal & child health, livelihoods, capacity-building</u> | | | | | |
| Private fund | 11,485 | 23,763 | (35,071) | (177) | 0 |
| Midi Pyrenees | (595) | 6,879 | (6,253) | (30) | (0) |
| Sub-total | 10,889 | 30,642 | (41,324) | (207) | 0 |
| <u>Mondulkiri Resource and Documentation Centre</u> | | | | | |
| CIYA | 0 | 6,094 | (6,036) | (59) | (1) |
| Globalteer | 0 | 3,272 | (5,472) | | (2,200) |
| Sub-total | 0 | 9,366 | (11,507) | (59) | (2,201) |
| <u>Other projects</u> | | | | | |
| ILO Indigenous Peoples' Market | 4,752 | 0 | (1,028) | | 3,724 |
| Lea Nature | 333 | 0 | (253) | (80) | 0 |
| NTFP-EP | 0 | 5,712 | (5,562) | (149) | 0 |
| Sub-total | 5,085 | 5,712 | (6,843) | (229) | 3,724 |
| <u>Unrestricted funds</u> | | | | | |
| Total unrestricted funds | 2,807 | 18,540 | (12,503) | 495 | 9,339 |
| NOMAD PROJECTS | 18,782 | 64,259 | (72,178) | 0 | 10,863 |
| MIPAD PROJECTS | | | | | |
| <u>Livelihoods and social enterprise projects</u> | | | | | |
| Winrock/USAID | 0 | 26,456 | (19,591) | | 6,865 |
| NTFP-EP (see above) | | | | | |
| MIPAD PROJECTS | 0 | 26,456 | (19,591) | | 6,865 |
| ALL PROJECTS | 18,782 | 90,715 | (91,769) | | 17,728 |

APPENDIX - TABLE OF MIPAD FEDERATED SELF-HELP GROUPS – April 2015

| | Status | Group Name | Founded | Supported by | | | Members | Women | Commune/ District |
|--------------|--------|---|----------|--------------|---------|---------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | 2011 | 2012-14 | 2014-15 | | | |
| 1 | | Pou Tang Weaving | 28-01-11 | UNESCO | | - | 31 | 21 | Romanea/ Senmonorom |
| 2 | | Pou Trou Blacksmith | 03-01-11 | UNESCO | | - | 19 | 7 | Senmonorom/ O Raing |
| 3 | | Pou Treng Tourism/Traditional medicine plant | 01-12-09 | | KCF | - | 26 | 17 | Dak Dam/ O Raing |
| 4 | n/a | Pou Ham Tourism/Bamboo shoots | 21-06-13 | | KCF | Winrock USAID | 20 | 15 | Senmonorom/ O Raing |
| 5 | n/a | Andong Kraloeng Weaving | 04-11-11 | UNESCO | | - | 15 | 12 | Senmonorom/ O Raing |
| 6 | n/a ? | Puchar Weaving/Traditional medicine plant | 14-03-09 | | KCF | - | 18 | 9 | Sre Preah/ Keo Seima |
| 7 | | Gaty SHG | 03-12-03 | | KCF | - | 13 | 9 | Sre Preah/ Keo Seima |
| 8 | | Pou Kong Traditional Midwife/Saving | 15-03-12 | | KCF | - | 9 | 7 | Sre Preah/ Keo Seima |
| 9 | | Chi Clop SHG/Traditional medicine plant | 18-09-12 | | KCF | Winrock USAID | 30 | 20 | Sok San/ Koh Nhek |
| 10 | n/a | Sre Thom Water supply | 07-10-14 | | | Winrock USAID | 11 | 7 | Sok San/ Koh Nhek |
| 11 | n/a | Sre Huy Vegetables/animal raising | 07-11-14 | | | Winrock USAID | 15 | 11 | Sre Huy/ Koh Nhek |
| 12 | n/a | Sre Chrey Vegetables/animal raising | 07-12-14 | | | Winrock USAID | 20 | 12 | Nang Khiloe/ Koh Nhek |
| 13 | | Chimeat Vegetables/animal raising/saving | 16-09-12 | | KCF | Winrock USAID | 20 | 20 | Nang Khiloe/ Koh Nhek |
| 14 | | Koh Mayel Krom Vegetables/animal raising/saving | 30-12-13 | | KCF | Winrock USAID | 16 | 15 | Nang Khiloe/ Koh Nhek |
| 15 | n/a | Koh Mayeal Leu Vegetables/animal raising | 14-08-14 | | | Winrock USAID | 19 | 16 | Nang Khiloe/ Koh Nhek |
| 16 | | Busra Weaving/sewing | 18-03-11 | UNESCO | | - | 19 | 18 | Busra / Pich Chreada |
| Total | | | | | | | 301 | 216 | |

←←← New group; vulnerable. Some group-running skills but need support. Can run group on own. →→→
Please note that MIPAD has associated groups – MRDC and the Indigenous People’s Market Traders.



Therapeutic diversity
Protection of the environment



SEN MONOROM
MONDULKIRI PROVINCE, CAMBODIA
nomadcambodia@gmail.com
www.nomadrsi.org
www.mondulkiri-centre.org